

tory in New York. My friend, Prof. J. A. Allen, the Curator of the zoölogical department of the Museum, having placed the Hummingbirds contained in the collection in my hands for identification, I have great pleasure in giving his name to this apparently new bird. The only known species with which this one can be compared seems to be the *Thaumatias caruleiceps*, Gould, P. Z. S. (1860), p. 240, from Bogotá, now I suppose contained in the British Museum collection, but it differs from that bird in some seemingly important particulars. The greenish blue of the head is not shining, but rather dull, and does not extend onto the back of the neck. The tail of shining bronze instead of having "a faint indication of a zone of brown across the outer feathers near the tip," has all the rectrices tipped with pale gray, very conspicuous on the outermost feathers, gradually diminishing in extent to the central pair, which have but an indication of gray at the tip. The under tail-coverts instead of being gray with brown centres, are pale brown with white edges. In size the two species seem to be about equal, except that the tail of *caruleiceps* is stated to be but *half an inch* in length, while that of *A. alleni* is 1 7-16 inch. It is possible that there may be a typographical error in the figures given of the length of tail in Mr. Gould's species. Professor Allen will later on publish a list of the species contained in Dr. Rusby's collection.

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#### ON A NEW SUBSPECIES OF *AMMODRAMUS SANDWICHENSIS* FROM MEXICO.

BY AMOS W. BUTLER.

CERTAIN peculiarities in some Savanna Sparrows taken by me in the winter of 1879-80, within the Valley of Mexico, induced me to undertake a comparison with the forms generally recognized as Mexican and with the United States form which might possibly extend toward the Mexican plateau in winter. In my studies I have, through the kindness of Mr. Robert Ridgway and Mr. J. A. Allen, been permitted to examine the series of Western and Mexican Savanna Sparrows in the U. S. National Museum and in

the American Museum of Natural History. I collected at least six Sparrows of this genus in the district mentioned, five of which I now have before me, one of them being kindly loaned by Mr. F. S. Wright, of Auburn, N. Y.

The specimens differ much from *A. sandwichensis alaudinus*, both in proportions and in being darker. In this they somewhat approach *A. s. bryanti*, but their large bills and brighter coloring, together with the noticeable difference in the pattern of coloration, render it easy to distinguish them.

***Ammodramus sandwichensis brunnescens*, subsp. nov.**

PLATEAU SPARROW.

**SUBSP. CIAR.**—Dark as in *A. s. bryanti* but much browner. Bill larger than in any of the subspecific forms, being only exceeded by that of *A. sandwichensis* itself.

**Male.** Above grayish shaded with light brown; top of head and back heavily spotted with black which is edged with bright brown; secondaries, tertiaries, upper tail-coverts, and sometimes the primaries and outer tail-feathers, edged with brown varying from cinnamon to chestnut; median stripe buff, superciliary stripe creamy to pale yellow; sides of head grayish brown spotted with black, sometimes a very distinct malar stripe of white or pale buff, below which the black spots are arranged in a stripe; chin and gular region white or light buff almost free from spots; jugulum, breast, and along the sides heavily streaked with dark brown and black and generally tinged with some shade of buff.

**Female.** Slightly lighter than the male; the brown edgings of the black spots on the back bordered with gray; streaks on the breast and sides smaller, the tinge of buff paler.

Wing, 2.60-2.85; average, 2.746. Tail, 1.95-2.10; average, 2.03. Tarsus, .75-.80; average, .786. Culmen, .42-.44; average, .424. Depth, .21-.22; average, .212.

♂ (No. 3, author's coll.) Valley of Mexico, Nov. 20, 1879.

♂ (No. 29, " " ) Valley of Mexico, Dec. 8, 1879.

♀ (No. 58, " " ) Valley of Mexico, Dec. 22, 1879.

♀ (No. 30, " " ) Valley of Mexico, Dec. 8, 1879.

♂ (No. 792, F. S. Wright " ) Valley of Mexico, Dec. 18, 1879.

**HAB.**—In winter the Valley of Mexico.

There are two other specimens besides the five mentioned that appear to be referable to this form. One of these, a female from the valley of Mexico, without date, is now in the American Museum of Natural History, New York. It fulfils all of the requirements except it has a peculiarly light brown tail, while in the

types the tails are black. Another (No. 78,124 U. S. Nat. Mus., ♀ ad., Guanajuato, Mexico, A. Dugès), is very much worn and badly discolored. The species is found in considerable numbers among the bushes and grasses along the drainage canals and about the lake shores.

A full series of the Savanna Sparrows is greatly needed from all parts of Mexico and Central America, and it seems not improbable that one or two other forms will have to be characterized before the specimens will begin to fit gracefully into the places assigned to them.

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## DESCRIPTION OF A NEW *MYIARCHUS* FROM THE WEST INDIES.

BY CHARLES B. CORY.

### *Myiarchus berlepschii*, sp. nov.

SP. CHAR. (Type, No. 12,535 Coll. C. B. Cory.) Top of the head dark brown; back and rump distinctly dark olive, shading into rufous on the tips of the upper tail-coverts. Throat pale ashy, somewhat darker on the upper breast; rest of underparts pale yellow. Primaries and secondaries dark brown edged with dull rufous, the rufous color wanting on the terminal portion of the four outer primaries. The primaries show pale rufous on the basal portion of the inner webs. All the secondaries and tertials are broadly edged with pale rufous on the inner webs. Tail dark brown; all the tail-feathers, excepting the two middle ones, have nearly the entire inner webs bright rufous, a narrow line of brown separating the rufous from the shaft of the feather. Bill dark brown. The feet are black.

Length, 7; wing, 3.50; tail, 3.25; tarsus, .95; bill, .65.

HABITAT. Island of St. Kitts, West Indies.

The underparts of this species are similar in marking and general coloration to *M. oberi*, but the throat is more ashy and lighter, and the yellow of the belly is paler. The back and head of *M. berlepschii* are darker, and the bird is smaller.

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\*Dedicated to Graf Hans von Berlepsch of Germany.